

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of searching for a piece of music, which a user desires to listen, from a music database, the music searching method comprising:

comparing a musical characteristic of representative music, which the user has set and serves as a basis for the search, with a plurality of musical characteristics of a plurality of pieces of music, which are search targets;

calculating a plurality of degrees of similarity to the representative music with respect to musical characteristics for the respective plurality of pieces of music which are search targets based on the comparing;

selecting a plurality of pieces of music in descending order of the degree of similarity; and

sorting the pieces of selected music based on stimulation coefficients calculated by dividing the similarities of the pieces of selected music by the played frequencies of the pieces of selected music.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The music searching method according to claim 1, further comprising:

referencing played frequencies, which are associated the selected pieces of music, respectively; and

sorting, on the basis of the played frequencies, the selected pieces of music in ascending order or descending order.

Claim 3 (Original): The music searching method according to claim 2, further comprising:

updating the played frequencies each time a piece of music is played; and
sorting, on the basis of the updated played frequencies, the selected pieces of music in ascending order or descending order.

Claim 4 (Original): The music searching method according to claim 2, further comprising:

updating the played frequencies each time a piece of music is skipped; and
sorting, on the basis of the updated played frequencies, the selected pieces of music in ascending order or descending order.

Claim 5 (Original): The music searching method according to claim 2, further comprising:

sorting, on the basis of environment in which the pieces of music are played, the selected pieces of music in ascending order or descending order.

Claim 6 (Original): The music searching method according to claim 1, further comprising:

acquiring, from a multi-channel digital broadcast, the pieces of music that serve as search targets.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A device that searches for a piece of music that a user desires to listen from a music database, the music searching device comprising:

a representative music setting unit configured to set representative music serving as a basis for the search;

a comparing unit configured to compare a musical characteristic of the representative music and a plurality of musical characteristics of a plurality pieces of music, which are search targets;

a calculating unit configured to calculate a plurality of degrees of similarity to the representative music with respect to musical characteristics for the respective plurality of pieces of music which are search targets based on the comparing;

a similar music selecting unit configured to select a plurality of pieces of music in descending order of the degree of similarity; and

a list generating unit configured to generate a music list in which the selected pieces of music are sorted in ascending order or descending order on a basis of a stimulation coefficient of each of the selected pieces of music, the stimulation coefficients calculated by dividing the similarities of the pieces of selected music by the played frequencies of the pieces of selected music.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing a program that searches for a piece of music that a user desires to listen from a music database, the music searching program causing a computer to perform a process comprising:

comparing a musical characteristic of representative music, which the user has set and serves as a basis for the search, with a plurality of musical characteristics of a plurality of pieces of music, which are search targets;

calculating a plurality of degrees of similarity to the representative music with respect to musical characteristics for the respective plurality of pieces of music which are search targets based on the comparing;

selecting a plurality of pieces of music in descending order of the degree of similarity; and

sorting the pieces of selected music based on stimulation coefficients calculated by dividing the similarities of the pieces of selected music by the played frequencies of the pieces of selected music.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The music searching method according to claim 1, wherein each musical characteristic is a numerical value representing at least one of a beat cycle, a beat intensity of respective one of the plurality of pieces of music and a rate of change thereof.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The music searching device according to claim 7, wherein each musical characteristic is a numerical value representing at least one of a beat cycle, a beat intensity of respective one of the plurality of pieces of music and a rate of change thereof.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The computer readable medium storing a program according to claim 8, wherein each musical characteristic is a numerical value representing at least one of a beat cycle, a beat intensity of respective one of the plurality of pieces of music and a rate of change thereof.

Claim 12 (New): The method of searching for a piece of music of claim 1, wherein each of the degrees of similarity is expressed as a correlation between the musical characteristics of the representative music and respective one of the plurality of pieces of music.

Claim 13 (New): The music searching device according to claim 7, wherein each of the degrees of similarity is expressed as a correlation between the musical characteristics of the representative music and respective one of the plurality of pieces of music.

Claim 14 (New): The computer readable medium storing a program according to claim 8, wherein each of the degrees of similarity is expressed as a correlation between the musical characteristics of the representative music and respective one of the plurality of pieces of music.